

Vaccinations for babies and pre-school children

Immunisations are one of the most effective ways to keep children healthy and safe from serious illnesses like whooping cough and measles.

The best way you can protect your baby, along with children up to five years old, is to ensure their vaccinations are up to date. Some vaccines need more than one dose to provide full protection. Only the complete course, given at the recommended ages, gives lasting immunity.

Why it matters



Though most parents still choose to vaccinate their children, vaccination rates are falling, and preventable illnesses like measles are on the rise again. It is vital that children get vaccinated to protect them from illness.

- Vaccinations are safe and effective.
- Diseases spread quickly among young children at nurseries and at home.
- Unvaccinated children can get seriously ill, even if they are otherwise fit and healthy.



What vaccinations does my child need?

Baby immunisations

At 8 Weeks



6-in-1 (Dose 1) Protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), hepatitis B.

MenB (Dose 1) The most common form of meningitis that can lead to severe brain damage.

Rotavirus (Dose 1) A highly infectious stomach bug.

At 12 weeks



6-in-1 (Dose 2)
MenB (Dose 2)
Rotavirus (Dose 2)

At 16 weeks



6-in-1 (Dose 3)

Pneumococcal (Dose 1) Protects from a range of bacterial infections from pneumonia to ear infection.

Toddler immunisations

At 1 year



MMR (dose 1) Protects against measles, mumps and rubella - highly contagious viral infections.

Pneumococcal (dose 2)

MenB (dose 3)

At 18 months (for children born on or after 1 July 2024)



6-in-1 (dose 4) This will help provide longer-term protection against infection.

MMR (dose 2) Your child needs both doses to be fully protected.

At 2 and 3 years old



Flu vaccine – available every autumn/winter.

Children are offered the flu vaccine to help stop the spread of flu in the community. Most children receive the vaccine as a nasal spray, but an injection is available for those who are at risk or allergic to the spray, and those who require a porcine-free version of the vaccine.

At 3 years, 4 months



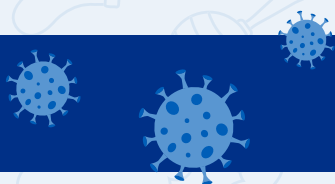
4-in-1 preschool booster Increases existing protection against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio.

MMR (dose 2) (Only for children born on or before 30 June 2024).

What do I need to do?

Childhood vaccinations are free and you will be contacted by your GP or health visitor when your child is due their vaccinations.

New for autumn/winter 2025



Parents of 2-3 year olds can now choose to get their child vaccinated for flu either at a GP surgery or a community pharmacy. This means more flexibility for busy families and the ability to book at a time that suits you.

Need more information?

- You can find more detail about vaccinations for babies and children on our website at: www.staffsstokeys.org.uk/vaccinations-for-babies-and-children-aged-0-5
- The NHS provides an up-to-date schedule for vaccinations for all ages, and what each vaccine protects against: www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them